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The Rural District Council of Wath  
(North Riding of Yorkshire)



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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
and  
Surveyor and  
Public Health Inspector

for the  
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1958



# WATH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## 1958

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*Chairman of the Council :*

Councillor T. ENGLISH, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman of the Council :*

Councillor G. FRANK.

*Members of the Housing, Planning and Health Committee :*

Councillor T. ENGLISH, J.P. (*Chairman*),

„ J. BROCKLEBANK, M.B.E., J.P.

„ F. CHAPMAN,

„ R. CLARK,

„ F. S. FOSTER,

„ G. FRANK,

„ J. F. GRAHAM,

„ SIR RICHARD GRAHAM,

„ H. KILVINGTON,

„ J. C. WEBSTER,

„ I. WELLS.

*Officers of the Council :*

*Clerk of the Council :*

W. C. EDEN, 7, Park Street, Ripon.

*Medical Officer of Health :*

H. GRAY, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., Manor Road, Easingwold.  
Tel. 324.

*Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :*

G. A. W. HEPPELL, M.C., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.Hsg.,  
7, Park Street, Ripon.



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# Annual Report

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Wath Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to submit for your consideration my report for 1958. Set out in the following pages are statistical tables which require little comment. The birth rate is comparatively low, and the death rate even more so. Notified cases of infectious diseases remain at a low level, and there is no reason to suspect that many un-notified cases are occurring.

It is pleasing to record the steady progress being made in provision of proper treatment for sewage, and in the continuing provision of new housing in spite of the financial difficulties which have arisen recently.

At the present time there is much discussion about the need to reorganise the areas of administration in Local Government, and it would appear that there is some danger of a small Rural District such as ours to be merged into a larger unit. In many ways this would be a pity as it is difficult to see how, in this area, our Local Government could remain so 'local', where every family is known to the officials and no matter of such small consequence that it does not merit careful consideration. Mr. Heppell refers to this happy Council—I think it is an efficient one too, and my thanks are owed to members and staff for their help and co-operation.

It is my hope in subsequent Annual Reports to incorporate an account of the working of the County Council services in the Bulmer Area as a whole.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GRAY,

M.D., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

# STATISTICS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA.

## DESCRIPTION.

The Rural District of Wath is situate in the extreme South-West corner of the North Riding of Yorkshire and is on the borders of the West Riding. It lies in the Vale of York and is extremely flat. The area is predominantly agricultural in character, the land being of excellent quality.

The area is bounded on the East by the River Swale and on the West by the River Ure. Neighbouring authorities are the Ripon and Pateley Bridge Rural District Council, Bedale Rural District Council, Thirsk Rural District Council and Easingwold Rural District Council.

## STATISTICS.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1958)	...	...	...	...	...	3620
Number of dwellinghouses in the Rate Book (including 48 married quarters)	...	...	...	...	...	722
Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	17007
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	...	11
Rateable Value (as at 1st April, 1958)	...	...	...	...	...	£48838
Estimated product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£194

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### LIVE BIRTHS.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	14	16	30
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	—	—	—
	15	17	32
	—	—	—

Live birth rate 9.1 per thousand. Corrected 11.3 per thousand.

### STILL BIRTHS.

There was one female stillbirth during the year.

Illegitimate live birth per cent. of total live birth = 6.2.

### DEATHS.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths from all causes	8	2	10

Rate per thousand of the population—  
 Uncorrected ... 2.8  
 Corrected ... 4.1

*Note* :—Crude birth and Death Rates are corrected by means of an Area Comparability Factor supplied each year by the Registrar-General. They allow for the varying age and sex distribution of each district and enable comparisons to be made with other areas and with the whole country.

### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Again there was no death of a mother in childbirth.

### INFANT MORTALITY.

One infant death occurred, a male under the age of 4 weeks.



# CAUSES OF DEATH.

## REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN.

<i>Diseases.</i>					<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	...	...	...	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other ...	...	...	...	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic diseases ...	...	...	...	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	-	-	-
5.	Whooping cough ...	...	...	...	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections ...	...	...	...	-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	-	-	-
8.	Measles ...	...	...	...	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic conditions				-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	...	...		-	1	1
11.	„ „ lung ...	...	...		-	-	-
12.	„ „ breast ...	...	...		-	-	-
13.	„ „ uterus ...	...	...		-	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				-	-	-
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	...	...		-	-	-
16.	Diabetes ...	...	...		-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system				-	-	-
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...		2	-	2
19.	Hypertension with heart disease ...	...	...		-	-	-
20.	Other heart disease ...	...	...		-	1	1
21.	Other circulatory disease ...	...	...		-	-	-
22.	Influenza ...	...	...		-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia ...	...	...		1	-	1
24.	Bronchitis ...	...	...		1	-	1
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system...				-	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	...		-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	...	...		-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	...	...		1	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	...	...		-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	...	...		-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations ...	...	...		-	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	...	...		1	-	1
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...		-	-	-
34.	All other accidents ...	...	...		1	-	1
35.	Suicide ...	...	...		1	-	1
36.	Homicide and operations of War ...	...	...		-	-	-
Totals ...					8	2	10

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

There was a variety of infectious diseases notified during the year—8 cases of measles, 2 of scarlet fever, 1 of acute poliomyelitis, 1 of pneumonia, 1 of acute encephalitis and 3 of tuberculosis.

2 of the tubercular cases were residents, one having infection of the lungs and one of the neck glands. The third was a serviceman stationed in the area.

The case of poliomyelitis was in a young child who had not been vaccinated against this disease.

## PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health Laboratory Service at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, under the control of the Ministry of Health, carried out bacteriological examinations of water, etc., and we are indebted to them.

### AMBULANCE.

The district is served by the Thirsk Ambulance Depot; Telephone—Thirsk 2234. After 10 p.m. the telephone Number is Northallerton 446.

### DISTRICT NURSES.

District Nurses are responsible in their respective areas for Midwifery, Home Nursing, Health Visiting and School Hygiene.

The Wath Rural District is served by :—

HUTTON CONYERS, NORTON CONYERS, MELMERBY, MIDDLETON QUERNHOW, AND WATH     .     ...     ...     ...     ...	}	Nurse Addison, Walton House, Wath. Tel. Melmerby 45.
ASENBY, BALDERSBY, RAINTON     ...	}	Nurse Dickinson, 34, East Lea, Topcliffe. Tel. Topcliffe 316.
DISHFORTH AND MARTON-LE-MOOR     ...	}	Nurse Savage, c/o Miss Wheatley, Myton-on-Swale. Tel. Helperby 287. Note : <i>Temporary arrangement only until appointment of Kirby Hill Nurse.</i>



CUNDALI ... ..	}	Nurse Savage, c/o Miss Wheatley, (as on Page 6).
RELIEF ... ..		Nurse Halliday, " Hillside," Asenby, Thirsk. Tel. Topcliffe 335.

#### DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

A scheme operates under Section 29 of the National Health Service Act to give domestic help. Assistance up to 44 hours in any week can be provided, with priority to domiciliary confinements. The maximum charge is 3/- per hour, but many cases pay less than this, the cost being based on income and family expenses.

The service is administered from the Area Health Office, Easingwold. Telephone—Easingwold 324.

#### INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.

The Mobile Clinic makes visits to the area as follows :—

Dishforth R.A.F. Station ...	Alternate Mondays at 2 p.m.
Dishforth Village ... ..	Every four weeks—on Monday at 10-15 a.m.
Wath Village ... ..	Every four weeks—on Tuesday at 10-15 a.m.

#### CARE OF THE AGED, WELFARE, PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, ETC.

The Medical Officer is responsible for the day-to-day administration of these services by virtue of his appointment with the County Council. The District Welfare Officer is stationed at the Area Health Office at Easingwold and he maintains full co-operation with the Medical Officer.

#### VOLUNTARY CARE COMMITTEE.

The Committee meets quarterly at Easingwold and provides from County Council Funds assistance to persons suffering from tuberculosis. Free milk is provided to those cases nursed at home on the recommendation of the Chest Physician.

# Annual Report

OF THE

## Surveyor and Public Health Inspector for 1958

To the Chairman and Members of the Wath Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report for 1958.

It has again been a year of steady progress in all aspects of local government.

Our water undertaking was maintained without any breakdowns and was adequate for all demands upon it.

A start was made during the year on the second new sewage disposal scheme, that at Rainton, and the scheme for Baldersby taken to the Inquiry stage.

A small number of bungalows were completed, enabling more unfit houses to be closed, and others were made fit with the aid of Improvement Grants.

In concluding this last Report before leaving your service I would like to express my thanks to the members and staff for their friendliness and toleration and to state sincerely that it would be difficult to find a happier Council anywhere in the country.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. A. W. HEPPELL,

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

### STATISTICS.

The table on the opposite page sets out the acreage, number of dwellinghouses and estimated population of each parish in the area.

The number of houses is an actual count from the Rate Book and includes a small number of houses on which there are Closing Orders or Undertakings under the Housing Act and which are unoccupied. There are also a number of married quarters at Dishforth aerodrome.

The population is estimated by the Registrar-General for mid-1958. It shows an average of 4.23 persons per house.

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>Acreage.</i>	<i>Number of Houses.</i>	<i>Estimated Population.</i>
Asenby ... ..	1,179	57	228
Baldersby ... ..	1,831	79	316
Cundall-with-Leckby ...	2,052	37	147
Dishforth ... ..	1,765	154	1349
		(incl. 48 Married Quarters)	(incl. 734 Service personnel).
Hutton Conyers ... ..	3,212	52	207
Marton-le-Moor ... ..	1,679	46	185
Melmerby ... ..	1,139	89	351
Middleton Quernhow ...	763	25	101
Norton Conyers ... ..	1,042	17	69
Rainton-with-Newby ...	1,578	102	410
Wath ... ..	767	64	257
	<hr/> 17,007 <hr/>	<hr/> 722 <hr/>	<hr/> 3620 <hr/>

## WATER SUPPLIES.

Consumption of water in the area has remained fairly constant at about nineteen million gallons during the year, three-quarters of this being produced from our five sources of supply. The borehole at Baldersby St. James is now our principal source and nine million gallons of water were pumped from this source. There was no interruption in this supply at all during the year nor in any of the other four installations, but pressure in the village of Dishforth where water is obtained from the Thirsk District Water Company, left much to be desired. Following representations to the Water Company work was started on duplicating the main from Asenby to Dishforth.

A piped water supply is available to all villages and hamlets in the area and only 20 houses are without a pure public or private water supply. These are isolated properties, such as gatehouses, which cannot be served by our existing supplies except at exorbitant cost.

Regular routine sampling of our supplies took place and the results were invariably good.

The year saw the publication of the Vail Report on the re-grouping of Water Undertakings in the North and East Ridings following the survey carried out in 1956. The Report makes far-reaching recommendations in the North Riding that the present 28 statutory water undertakers be consolidated into four water areas, administered by new all-purpose Water Boards.



The table below sets out the number of houses in each parish served by the various sources of supply. It shows that 642 houses (88.9%) have a piped supply in the house, 8 houses (1.1%) obtain their water from a stand-pipe and 72 houses (10.0%) obtain water from other sources.

PARISH	No. of Houses	SOURCE OF MAINS SUPPLY										PRIVATE SOURCES		
		Melmerby	Baldersby St. James	Hutton Conyers	Marton-le-Moor	Wath	Middleton Quernhow	Cundall bulk Supply	Dishforth bulk Supply	Direct by Thirsk Waterworks Co.	Direct by Ripon Corporation	Direct by Bedale R.D.C.	Boreholes	Wells and Springs
Asenby	57	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	46	—	—	4	3
Baldersby	79	—	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Cundall	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	3	—	—	—	2
Dishforth	154	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	97	54	—	—	—	3
Hutton Conyers	52	4	4	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	14
Marton-le-Moor	46	—	—	—	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Melmerby	89	2	86	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Middleton Quernhow	25	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	12	2
Norton Conyers	17	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—
Rainton	102	—	84	—	—	53	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	6
Wath	64	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3
TOTALS	722	6	255	26	42	54	11	36	97	103	18	2	34	38

It is recommended that a Water Area, known as the Mowbray Area, be formed, composed of this Rural District, the Thirsk, Easingwold and Northallerton Rural Districts, the Northallerton Urban District, the Northallerton Water Board and the Thirsk District Water Company. If this, or any similar Water Board be formed, and it is the intention of the Minister of Housing and Local Government that this process of amalgamation be speeded up, the Wath Rural District Council will lose control entirely of its water undertaking and will probably have one, or at the most two, members on a Water Board.

I consider that this area has an abundance of underground water, is well served by its present net-work of water mains and is economically and efficiently administered to the benefit of the consumers. Any amalgamation into a larger undertaking is bound to increase costs, cannot supply any purer water and will not be in such close contact with the consumers as is the Rural District Council.

#### SOURCES OF SUPPLY AND CONSUMPTION.

Water is obtained from two springs and three boreholes in the area and water is also purchased in bulk for Cundall and Dishforth. The village of Asenby is supplied direct by the Thirsk District Water Company and part of the parish of Norton Conyers by the Ripon Corporation.

The total yield from our five sources is :—

Melmerby Springs	...	50,760	gallons per day.
Hutton Conyers	... ..	10,000	„ „
Wath borehole	... ..	15,000	„ „
Marton-le-Moor borehole	...	25,000	„ „
Baldersby St. James borehole		175,000	„ „

Our records show that the total consumption of water in the area during the year was just over 17 million gallons. The quantities consumed from each source were :—

			Gallons per day
Melmerby	...	526,173	galls. equivalent to 1441
Hutton Conyers	...	472,200	„ „ 1293
Wath	...	1,341,860	„ „ 3676
Marton-le-Moor	...	1,446,809	„ „ 3963
Baldersby St. James	...	9,253,600	„ „ 25,380
Cundall (Bulk)	...	1,749,000	„ „ 4,791
Dishforth (Bulk)	...	2,323,000	„ „ 6,364
Total	...	17,112,642	46,908



## SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Your new sewage disposal works at Wath continued to operate efficiently and produce a satisfactory effluent.

Work started on the construction of a disposal works and new sewers in the village of Rainton at a total cost of approximately £15,000. By the end of the year 1,000 yards of 6" sewer had been laid and about half the contract completed.

The proposed new scheme for Baldersby was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and an informal local Inquiry was pending at the end of the year.

In view of the progress being made on these schemes, the Council instructed their Consulting Engineer to commence preparation of a scheme for the village of Asenby, which is next in order of priority for improvement. In this village, as in the remainder, sewage is discharged relatively untreated into open watercourses. 15 small tanks and 1,397 yards of watercourse are cleaned out by the Council to alleviate the unsatisfactory conditions.

## HOUSING.

### COUNCIL HOUSING.

During the year the Council completed 3 bungalows at Melmerby and 3 at Baldersby. 5 out of the 6 were let to pensioners, 2 being from Category 5 houses. As a result of changes in tenancy a third family was re-housed from a Category 5 house.

At the close of the year a further block of three bungalows was being built at Baldersby and two pairs of bungalows at Hutton Conyers. The acquisition of sites for a pair at Baldersby St. James and a pair at Dishforth were being negotiated.

The Council now have 124 houses in the following parishes :—

Asenby .	...	9	Hutton Conyers	6
Baldersby	...	9	Marton-le-Moor ...	12
Cundall	...	6	Melmerby	... 27
Dishforth	...	31	Rainton	... 14
			Wath	... 10

### HOUSING ACT, 1957.

Very few houses remain of the 89 classed as sub-standard when the Rural Housing Survey was carried out in 1946/1947. Many have been improved by the owners and others have been the subject of orders by the Council when they have become vacant on changes in tenancy, or when the occupants have been offered Council houses. This process continued during the year when 4 more were dealt with, a Closing Order being made on one and undertakings being given on three. One house on which a demolition order had been made in a previous year was pulled down.

Minor defects were made good in 39 houses as a result of informal action by the Council and in 1 house following statutory action to remedy the defects.

### HOUSING ACT, 1949.

The Council continued to give practical encouragement to the improvement of houses in the area by the giving of Improvement Grants. During the year under review grants were approved affecting 12 houses, bringing the total since the inception of the scheme to 50.

It is a remarkable feature of the operation of the scheme in this area that 45 out of the 50 houses assisted are let to tenants and only 5 are owner-occupied.

### AMENITIES IN HOUSES.

Considerable progress was made in the provision of baths and the conversion of pail closets and privies to the water-carriage system. 73% of the houses in the area now have a bath and 79% a water-closet.

Details are given parish by parish.

### SANITARY CONVENIENCES

Parish	Total Number of Houses	Closet Accommodation			Baths
		Pails	Privies	Water Closets	
Asenby ..	57	4	17	36	37
Baldersby ..	79	18	19	42	44
Cundall-with-Leckby ..	37	2	10	25	28
Dishforth ..	154	3	8	143	127
Hutton Conyers ..	52	3	10	39	38
Marton-le-Moor ..	46	2	6	38	31
Melmerby ..	89	—	2	87	73
Middleton Quernhow ..	25	1	7	17	16
Norton Conyers ..	17	7	3	7	15
Rainton-with-Newby ..	102	3	19	80	70
Wath ..	64	3	7	54	52
Totals ..	722	46	108	568	531

## SUPERVISION AND INSPECTION OF FOOD.

### MILK AND DAIRIES.

There are 8 registered distributors of milk operating in the area, 3 being residents and 6 from outside the district. In addition one or two-farmer producers sell small quantities direct to customers or employees.

All milk sold by the registered distributors is either tuberculin-tested, sterilised or pasteurised. The only raw, ungraded milk consumed in the area is that supplied direct from the farms. In view of the progress being made with tuberculin-tested herds in the area, it seems likely that all milk cows will soon be in this category.

### MEAT.

There are no slaughterhouses in the district and only one butcher's shop. This establishment is very well conducted. Most of the meat consumed in the area is bought from vans operating from neighbouring towns, where the animals are killed. Generally speaking the condition of the vans is good.

### ICE-CREAM.

Three shops in the district are licensed to retail ice-cream. All obtain ice-cream pre-packed from large manufacturers and store it in modern refrigerators until sold as received. Two or three vans operating from outside the area also retail during the summer. There are no manufacturing premises.

### FOOD SHOPS.

There are 7 food shops, 7 licensed premises and 3 cafes in the area, to which the Food Hygiene Regulations apply. Conditions generally are good, but one licensed house and one cafe have given cause for action during the year. As a result of action by the Licensing Justices the former premises are no longer used.

A transport cafe, which had almost ceased to operate as such, changed hands and attracted quite a good trade. The structural condition of the premises is poor and the water supply unsatisfactory. The owner wishes to erect new premises at the back of his existing ones but cannot obtain Planning Permission, this being refused by the Minister of Transport. The Council must now consider what improvements are necessary to his existing premises to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations, although their replacement by new buildings would have been preferable.

### RODENT CONTROL.

Many visits of inspection were carried out during the year under this heading, some as a result of complaints. Several minor infestations were found, but no major ones.



The undertaking of rat destruction by the County Committees, under contract, is ceasing and will end altogether early in 1959. It might be that the number of rats will increase and that more action will be necessary.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A fortnightly collection of refuse from every house in the district continued and was increased to weekly in the case of the 48 married quarters on a service aerodrome in the area. The work was carried out in a most efficient manner by your contractor and no complaints were received.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

We have no large works in the area, but twelve small premises are classed as factories. They are :—

- 3 agricultural engineers
- 1 electrical engineer
- 2 automobile engineers
- 1 sawmill
- 1 grain-drying plant
- 2 joiners shops
- 1 warehouse (M.O.S.)
- 1 packing shed (M.O.S.)

All these premises were visited during the year. A new sanitary convenience is required at one joiner's shop and the owner has agreed to provide this.

The information required by the Ministry of Labour is as follows :—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written notices	Prosecu- tions
i. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	7	17	—	—
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5	11	—	—
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—
Total ..	12	28	—	—

# SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS DURING 1958.

Housing inspections and re-inspections under the Public Health and Housing Acts								60
Inspections re improvement grants				...	...	...	98	
Inspections and re-inspections re nuisances					...	...	44	
Buildings under construction				...	...	...	101	
Water supplies		...	...	...	...	...	276	
Sewage Disposal		...	...	...	...	...	186	
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	51	
Cesspools and sewage tanks...				...	...	...	10	
Dykes and watercourses		...	...	...	...	...	25	
Housing management and repair				...	...	...	238	
Housing sites		...	...	...	...	...	36	
Factories		...	...	...	...	...	28	
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	
Rodent Control		...	...	...	...	...	216	
Temporary dwellings and caravans				...	...	...	14	
Petroleum storage		.....	...	...	...	...	21	
Miscellaneous visits and interviews				...	...	...	120	
Infectious disease		...	...	...	...	...	22	
Refuse collection		...	...	...	...	...	16	
Town Planning		...	...	...	...	...	6	
National Assistance		...	...	...	...	...	5	
Water samples		...	...	...	...	...	71	
Total							1679	





